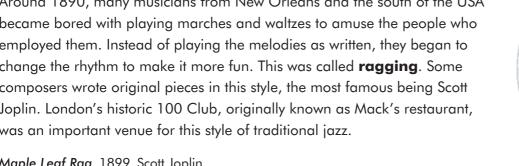
Session 1

Stomping at the 100 Club

• 100 Oxford Street, London

Around 1890, many musicians from New Orleans and the south of the USA became bored with playing marches and waltzes to amuse the people who employed them. Instead of playing the melodies as written, they began to change the rhythm to make it more fun. This was called **ragging**. Some composers wrote original pieces in this style, the most famous being Scott Joplin. London's historic 100 Club, originally known as Mack's restaurant, was an important venue for this style of traditional jazz.





Maple Leaf Rag 1899 Scott Joplin

Ragging a melody

Let's try this for ourselves. Below is a well-known melody by Beethoven.

The rhythm is simple and repetitive and certainly not jazzy:

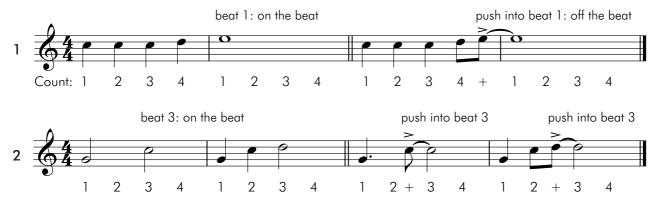


Perhaps we can do something about that ...

Pushing notes

The best way of 'jazzing up' or ragging a melody is to add pushes by playing a note earlier than expected, so it is played off the beat instead of on the beat. This is called **syncopation**.

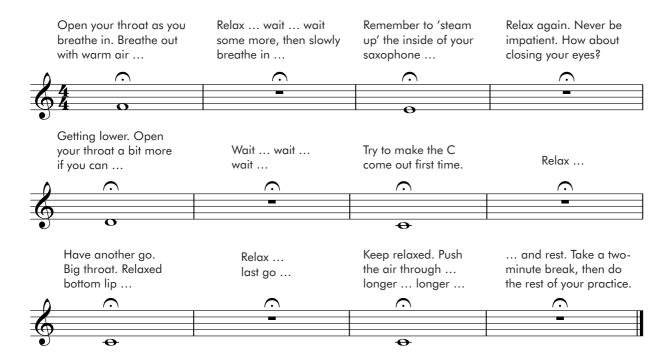
Play the following phrases. In each case, the first two bars are in the Beethoven style and the second two bars contain pushes to jazz it up. Count carefully and slightly accent the pushed note.



A warm-up exercise for every day

Play the following exercise every day. Make the notes as long as possible and take an equally long time over the rests. Take as long as you can and relax properly between notes.

Once you have memorised this exercise, play it with your eyes closed, so all you are aware of is the sound you are making.



Working on your low notes really improves your tone throughout the whole range of the saxophone. Do this exercise every day, and very soon you will notice your tone is louder, steadier and richer in character.

23 Slo-mo

Here is a slow tune to play over backing track 23. The notes and rhythms are not hard, so you can concentrate on your tone. You must relax your mouth during all the rests – no breathing in through your nose!

